

Careers in Construction

Building Construction at PCC: Three Unique Career Pathways

- **CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT**
- **RESIDENTIAL BUILDING CONSTRUCTION**
- **DESIGN/BUILD REMODELING**

Construction is a huge industry, with a wide variety of career options, great earnings potential, and a solid future for years to come. PCC offers three different degree pathways to a career in the construction industry.

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

Already somewhat familiar with construction? Want to move into Project Management? Thinking of becoming an Estimator? Superintendent? This is for you. Or maybe you already have management experience in another field and you want to move laterally into construction. This is for you. Our CM AAS degree gives you the tools to enter the ranks as a Construction Manager. Our CM graduates have moved on to become PMs, Estimators, General Contractors, Owner's Representatives, Superintendents, and a wide variety of other supervisory positions in the industry. Portland, and our nation, will need managers in construction for years to come. We can help, with you.

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

Our Hands-on AAS degree takes you from the ground floor to the penthouse in two years. Many of our students enter with very little construction experience, and within two years they have developed the skills to form foundations, frame floors, walls and roofs, and complete all the interior and exterior finishes on a typical wood framed house. Our AAS graduates are fully prepared to take on a position with a local homebuilder, framing walls, installing interior trim, calculating and cutting stairs, and framing out those difficult dormer roofs. Move into a whole new career that pays a living wage, with marketable skills in a growing industry. PCC BCT can help get that career started. Home building in Hillsboro, or framing in Atlanta. Take these skills anywhere and start a career.

DESIGN / BUILD REMODELING

Our Design / Build Remodeling program is unique in the country. The only one of its kind (and sponsored by the National Kitchen and Bath Association), students learn the hands-on skills necessary to build residential construction, with the added value of specialized training in kitchen and bathroom design, finishes selection and installation, and business practices. Our AAS graduates are prepared to dive directly into careers with local Design/Build Remodeling contractors, and many move quickly toward establishing their own companies; serving clients and building people's dreams. And you can take these skills anywhere in the country! Get started.

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT AAS DEGREE PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION TO CM

Construction Management offers students course work targeted at management level positions within the construction industry. Some students in the CM program go on to become their own General or Specialty Contractor, others take their skills to a larger construction company and specialize in areas such as procurement, scheduling, estimating, or project management. The CM program at Rock Creek is unique in the greater Portland metropolitan area, and we strive to customize the program for each of our 50 students seeking the CM degree.

A NIGHT CLASS PROGRAM AT ROCK CREEK

The Construction Management program offers primarily evening classes, one night per week per class. Most CM classes are held between 6-9pm Monday thru Thursday, and nearly all CM classes are offered exclusively at Rock Creek. Exceptions include General Education, Writing, and Computer Applications classes that are offered on multiple campuses and online. Given our size, many CM courses are offered only once per year, so planning your courses with an advisor is important for students to complete on time. A CM course planner is available from a BCT faculty member. Students typically graduate in 2 – 2.5 years.

While the majority of new students enter the program in the fall term, it is still possible to complete the degree in two years if begin in winter or spring, if you attend in the summer and carry a heavier class load. We will work with you to develop an Academic Plan that suits your specific requirements. Some need to spread the coursework out over time, taking one or two classes each term. It is not required that you attend full time. Some students earn a degree slowly, balancing work, family and coursework. And down the road, you can continue at night or online with OIT or SOU and earn a Bachelor's degree in just two more years.

GETTING STARTED IN CM

CM at PCC Rock Creek is open access. Students are not required to apply, and may start any term of the year. Students first must register with PCC, an online process that takes about a week to process, which will provide the new student with a Student ID number, known as a 'G' number. New students are advised to attend an information session or schedule an appointment with a faculty member or the program learning skills specialist, prior to registering for classes. This can be done face to face or via email.

STUDENTS WITH PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE, TRANSFER CREDITS & PREVIOUS DEGREES

Potential students who already have a few years of experience in construction should set up an advising appointment. Some foundational classes may be substituted for you with more challenging work. Students transferring to the program, and those with previous degrees, are encouraged to set up an appointment in the first term of study to review transcripts and design a course program particular to the situation. Most students with prior degrees do not need to take the 16 credits of General Education.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Shannon Baird, BCT Co-Chair: shannon.baird@pcc.edu , Suzanne Najafdari, Advisor: suzanne.najafdari@pcc.edu

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION (HANDS ON) AAS DEGREE

INTRODUCTION TO HANDS ON

The Original BCT Degree. This is where it all started, and this is still where we center ourselves. Teaching the skills that will elevate students into a career in residential construction. We split our time between our fully equipped woodworking shop, which contains all the tools, large and small, that any carpenter or cabinetmaker would put on their list. Whether it's learning how to operate our industrial grade planers, our joiners, our state of the art SawStop table saws, or the litany of hand held power tools in our tool room, there is no limit to what we can build in this facility. When we build big, we head outdoors to our Construction Yard, a fully serviced exterior classroom big enough to have several "houses" in foundations, and several more in finish work, or being remodeled.

MORNING CLASSES AT ROCK CREEK

Most hands on classes start at right about the same time one might show up for work on a homebuilding project, 7am. We work indoors and out, rain or shine, until we break for lunch at 12:50. A full time student is usually attending class 4 days per week, Monday – Thursday. Exceptions include General Education, Writing, and Speech classes that are offered on multiple campuses and online. Given our size, nearly all courses are offered only once per year, so planning your courses with an advisor is important for students to complete on time. A course planner is available from a BCT faculty member. Students typically graduate in 2 – 2.5 years. And don't be afraid if you never really found "school" worked for you in the past. This is a whole different ball game, than High School, and compared to your standard "college" classes. Hands On classes make it real. Real fast.

GETTING STARTED

Our BCT program at PCC Rock Creek is open access. Students are not required to apply, and may start any term of the year. Students first must register with PCC, an online process that takes about a week to process, which will provide the new student with a Student ID number, known as a 'G' number. New students are advised to schedule an appointment with a faculty member or the program learning skills specialist, prior to registering for classes. This can be done face to face or via email. BCT 106 Tool Safety must be taken prior to beginning any other hands on classes, unless the instructor provides permission to take the classes concurrently.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Kris Cowan, BCT Faculty: Kristopher.cowan15@pcc.edu, Suzanne Najafdari, Advisor: suzanne.najafdari@pcc.edu

DESIGN / BUILD REMODELING AAS DEGREE PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION TO DESIGN / BUILD

Our Design / Build Remodeling program is unique. Not just here in the Pacific Northwest. But in the entire United States. Who knows, it may be the only program of its kind in the universe. What makes our program so special is that we combine our Hands On training with specialized classes on kitchen and bathroom design, materials selection, sustainable construction practices, business practices, and the entire body of knowledge approved by the National Kitchen and Bath Association. This training gives you the skills to head out into one of the fastest growing and most lucrative sectors in the construction industry, kitchen and bathroom remodeling. So, if you have your eye on remodeling your own home, or you want to renovate old homes and add real value, and if you are like our students and you want solid technical training that will set you up for a successful career in this industry, then the Design / Build Remodeling AAS may be just the thing for you.

DESIGN / BUILD AT ROCK CREEK

The Design / Build program offers draws on elements from all of our programs. Students in this program take most of our Hands On classes, and then add customized value to that. Introduction to Space Planning, Kitchen and Bathroom Design, Mechanical Systems for Kitchens and Baths, Business Principles for Constructors, and others add value to this degree. The BCT Design/ Build curriculum embeds the curriculum of the NKBA within it, guaranteeing we meet all of the outcomes requested by the NKBA. And, you earn a degree along with gaining the skills to compete in the industry. Given our size, many Design / Build courses are offered only once per year, so planning your courses with an advisor is important for students to complete on time. A Design / Build course planner is available from a BCT faculty member. Students typically graduate in 2 – 2.5 years.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Hilary Campbell, BCT Faculty: hilary.campbell1@pcc.edu, Suzanne Najafdari, Advisor: suzanne.najafdari@pcc.edu

MORE ABOUT OUR BCT PROGRAMS AT PCC ROCK CREEK

THE STUDENTS

Our students are among the most motivated and dedicated students at PCC. When students arrive on a mission, they thrive. Everyone attending BCT classes wants to be here for a reason: to get as much as they can out of this program and one another. As a result, they give back to one another too. We feel genuine excitement for learning in our classes. Students tell us that their experiences at Rock Creek have been among the best educational experiences they have ever had. One great benefit to our program is that students more or less move through as a group; so when you start out, you get to know people, and see them again and again. They become your friends, or they become your colleagues that you meet out in industry later, or they become both.

THE INSTRUCTORS AND SUPPORTING STAFF

We have four dedicated and motivated full time faculty members, and each teach to their own specialties.

- *Our CM program is headed by Shannon Baird, a former Project Manager, who oversees the Construction Management program and teaches some of the classes. Shannon advises continuing and incoming students.*
- *Kris Cowan, former residential contractor and dedicated Habitat for Humanity supporter, and Kirk Garrison, former specialty concrete contractor, share oversight of our Hands On program, assisted by our BCT Tech Toby Harper.*
- *Our Design/Build Remodeling program is headed by Hilary Campbell, an architectural designer and NKBA certified kitchen and bath expert. Hilary advises continuing and incoming students in the Design/Build program.*

When appropriate, course work is instructed by Adjunct Instructors - professionals from industry who come in to teach part-time. For example, a lawyer teaches the Construction Law class in our CM program, a Natural Builder teaches our Alternative Building Design course, and a Cabinetmaker teaches cabinetmaking.

BCT students and staff are also supported by our Learning Skill Specialist Suzanne Najafdari. Suzanne helps students with College Admission, Financial Aid questions, Academic Plans, and Advising.

UP TO DATE INSTRUCTION

We strive to keep our program up to date with the latest technologies and methodologies. Sustainable construction practices are integrated into every course we teach. We update curriculum every term, and we adapt to our ever-evolving industry. We aim to reflect the workplace in which students intend to participate.

INDUSTRY SUPPORT

Our programs are overseen by our Industry Advisory Board, providing critical insight, and helping keep our curriculum focused and relevant. Employers such as Skanska, Artisan Renovations, Olson and Jones Construction, iLevel, and Hoffman have all served on our board.

CONTACT

shannon.baird@pcc.edu, kristopher.cowan15@pcc.edu, hilary.campbell1@pcc.edu, suzanne.najafdari@pcc.edu